

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet that included FIG. 1.

REMARKS

Claims 20 and 21 have been added. Claims 6, 16 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17 and 19-21 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. Claim 4 currently stands rejected to due to some alleged informalities. Claim 4 has been amended to remove the alleged informalities. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the objection be removed and that claim 4 be passed to issuance.

2. Claims 15 and 17 currently stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by German published patent application DE 3,604,835 A1 to Leicher (hereinafter "Leicher").

Claim 15

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the features of objected-to claim 16. As a result, it is submitted that amended claim 15 is now in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that amended claim 15 be passed to issuance.

Claim 17

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the features of objected-to claim 18. As a result, it is submitted that amended claim 17 is now in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that amended claim 17 be passed to issuance.

3. Claims 1-5 and 9-14 currently stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in Leicher and U.S. Patent 6,839,013 to Cummins.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of objected-to claim 6. As a result, it is submitted that amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that amended claim 1 be passed to issuance.

Claims 2-5 and 9-14

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims is now moot, since these claims each depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, which is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

4. Claims 6-8, 16, 18 and 19 currently stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, claims 6, 16 and 18 have been cancelled and their features have been incorporated into the corresponding independent claims 1, 15 and 17, respectively.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-15, 17 and 19-21 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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